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Newsnotes



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Newsnotes

NEWS

Changes to the Editorial Board

In the spring of 2013 long-time Vincentian Studies Institute member and Editorial Board contributor John Sledziona, C.M., of the New England Province of the Congregation of the Mission, announced that he would be stepping down from the board. We would like to express our thanks to Fr. Sledziona for his many years of service and invaluable contributions to Vincentian scholarship on our behalf.

The vacancy will be filled by Alison Forrestal, Ph.D., Lecturer in Early Modern History, at NUI Galway, Ireland. Dr. Forrestal earned her Doctorate in History from the University of Manchester in 2000, and she is an accomplished author, lecturer, and 17th century historian. Her published works include the books *Catholic Synods in Ireland, 1600-1690* (1998); *Fathers, Pastors and Kings: Visions of Episcopacy in Seventeenth-Century France* (2004); and numerous articles, including “Migrations of Martyrdom in the Post-Reformation Era: The Bishop in Seventeenth-Century France,” *The Seventeenth Century* (2005); “Irish Entrants to the Congregation of the Mission, 1625-60,” *Archivium Hibernicum* (2009); “Vincent de Paul: The Principles and Practices of Government, 1625-60,” *Vincentian Heritage* (2009); “Venues for Clerical Formation in Catholic Reformation Paris: Vincent de Paul and the Tuesday Conference and Company,” *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History* (2010); and “Collaborative Networking: Vincent de Paul and the Jansenist Conflict, 1643-55,” in *Saint-Cyran, Le Jansénisme* (forthcoming 2014).

Dr. Forrestal has also delivered an impressive number of conference and seminar papers on French and Catholic history, the history of the Congregation of the Mission, and Vincent de Paul. Over the course of her career she has been awarded multiple grants to support her research, including from the Millenium Research Fund, NUI Galway, for the project “Vincent de Paul: The Formation of Identity and Culture in Early Modern Catholicism” (2006); from the IRCHSS Research Fellowship, for “Vincent de Paul: The Making of an Icon” (2009-10); and the Digital Humanities Award: website and editorship of online collection of primary documents, funding body: DePaul University (2012-15).

We take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Forrestal to the Editorial Board, and offer our thanks to her as she begins her work with us to shape the future of the Vincentian Studies Institute and our publications.

Barbara Diefendorf, Ph.D., receives the Pierre Coste Prize

A modern day scholar of French history was honored for her distinguished contributions to Vincentian historiography on 27 September 2013, the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul.

Barbara Diefendorf, Ph.D., a Boston University professor of history, is the 2013 recipient of the Vincentian Studies Institute's Pierre Coste Prize. Named for the Reverend Pierre Coste, C.M., the 20th century French Vincentian historian known as the father of modern Vincentian studies, the award recognizes distinguished contributions in Vincentian scholarship.

Chair of the Vincentian Studies Institute and Senior Executive for DePaul University Mission, Edward R. Udovic, C.M., said "Dr. Diefendorf is being honored for her signal contributions to the religious historiography of 17th century France, which have in turn greatly contributed to the contextualization of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac and the foundation of the Vincentian tradition."

Dr. Diefendorf attended the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees in French and history. She has taught European history at Boston University since 1980, and is the author of *Paris City Councillors in the Sixteenth Century: The Politics of Patrimony*; *Beneath the Cross: Catholics and Huguenots in Sixteenth-Century Paris*, which was awarded the New England Historical Association and National Huguenot Association book prizes; *From Penitence to Charity: Pious Women and the Catholic Reformation in Paris*, which was awarded the J. Russell Major Prize by the American Historical Association; and *The Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre: A Brief History with Documents*.

"I came to study 17th century French spirituality as a way of exploring the Catholic revival that followed France's Wars of Religion, an earlier subject of my research," said Dr. Diefendorf. "Although my first interest lay in the penitential and ascetic spirituality that grew out of the wars, I quickly realized that I needed to account for very different spiritual currents as well."

"The apostolic charity that lay at the heart of the work of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac in particular intrigued me, because of its contrast with the inward-looking asceticism that followed on the heels of the wars," Dr. Diefendorf said. "I first attempted to bring these diverse strands of piety together in a paper presented at the Vincentian Heritage Symposium held at DePaul University in 1992. I had no idea of it at the time, but the title I chose for that paper, "From Penitence to Charity," would offer not only the title but also the essential narrative of my next book. The fact that I first presented this work at DePaul makes the Pierre Coste Prize especially meaningful for me."

The Pierre Coste Prize was established in 2003 in preparation for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Vincentian Studies Institute. Previous honorees include, Marie Poole, D.C., editor of the Vincentian translation project (2004); Stafford Poole, C.M., a Vincentian historian and longtime member of the V.S.I. (2006); Louise Sullivan, D.C., author of several

Vincentian works including *Saint Louise de Marillac: Spiritual Writings* and *Sister Rosalie Rendu: A Daughter of Charity on Fire with Love for the Poor* (2010); and the late Paul Henzmann, C.M., the archivist at the Maison-Mere of the Congregation of the Mission in Paris (2010).

Announcement: "What did Louise Say?" Online quotes database debuts

What did Louise say? (topaz.cstcis.cti.depaul.edu/ldm) DePaul University has launched a searchable, interactive Internet database that provides worldwide access to the wisdom of St. Louise de Marillac. It serves as a companion to "What did Vincent Say?" (topaz.cstcis.cti.depaul.edu/quotes) a popular database launched in January 2012 offering quotes from Vincent de Paul.

Scott Kelley, assistant vice president for Vincentian Scholarship in the Office of Mission and Values at DePaul University in Chicago, directed the project. "While there are thousands of pages of primary source material available online through the Vincentian Heritage Collections, many people often ask to source a quote they came across from Vincent or Louise. The Louise de Marillac site is intended to showcase the profound wisdom of a woman who is a co-founder of the Vincentian family."

There are almost 400 quotes in the database. Users simply search by word or phrase to locate a specific quote or to identify a quote on a particular topic. All quotes were taken from the *Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac*, edited and translated from the original French edition *Sainte Louise de Marillac: Ecrits Spirituels* by Sister Louise Sullivan, D.C., and published in 1991. Users can also recommend their favorite quotes for consideration if they are not yet included.

So what's next? Plans are underway to create a database for Elizabeth Ann Seton to be released sometime in 2014.

Announcement: New collection of Catholic and Vincentian History Available Online

The Vincentian Studies Institute of DePaul University has launched a new online research archive that will provide access to an array of historical documents on the Catholic Reformation, with special focus on Vincentian history. The website, which was created by Dr. Alison Forrestal of the National University of Ireland, Galway, and Dr. Felicia Roşu of Leiden University, Netherlands, can be found at: earlymoderndocs.omeka.net/.

The first materials posted to the site are a collection of sources relating to Vincent de Paul and the Congregation of the Mission from the 1620s to the 1670s. These are drawn from the archives of the Holy See, especially from the archives of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide in Rome.

The material will be invaluable to specialist researchers. It also contains information that will be of interest to the general public on topics such as the Vincentian missions in North Africa and Madagascar, jurisdictional disputes, political relationships and popular devotions. The collection includes summaries of individual documents, and will eventually house transcriptions of particularly valuable correspondence, reports and minutes. More documents will be added soon.

The creation of the website and the publication of the collection are the fruits of a project first funded by the Irish Research Council, but now supported by DePaul University, Leiden University, and the National University of Ireland, Galway.

“DePaul University’s collaborative support of this research highlights its role as the premier international center for Vincentian studies,” said the Rev. Edward R. Udovic, C.M., DePaul’s senior executive for university mission. “We believe it will be a valuable resource for both historians and others interested in the history of the Church and the Vincentians.”

DePaul University Libraries Presents: The Vincentian Holy Card Digital Collection

DePaul University Libraries, in cooperation with DePaul’s Vincentian Studies Institute, is proud to announce a new digital collection of devotional cards featuring St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, the Congregation of the Mission, and the Daughters of Charity. These cards span several centuries and many languages, and reveal the trends and shifts in the iconography of St. Vincent through the 19th and 20th centuries. Objects such as holy cards also give a fascinating glimpse into the history, and distribution, of Catholic material culture.

This collection represents a small portion of DePaul University’s Vincentian Studies Collection, which includes books, journals and serials, newspapers, catalogs and bibliographies, maps, archival material, illustrations and art objects, as well as a large collection of ephemera.

The Vincentian Holy Cards digital collection can be viewed at: digicol.lib.depaul.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15448coll4

PUBLICATIONS

Notable Books

Robert Emmett Curran, *Shaping American Catholicism. Maryland and New York, 1805-1915* (The Catholic University of America Press, 2012), 320 pp. ISBN 978-0813219677.

An important contextual study given the importance of Baltimore and New York as early centers of the Vincentian experience in the United States. From the jacket: “Distinguished historian Robert Emmett Curran presents an informed and balanced study of the American Catholic Church’s experience in its two most important regions in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Spanning the years 1805 to 1915, Curran highlights the rivalry and tension between the northeast and southeast, specifically New York and Maryland, in assuming leadership of the church in America and the Society of Jesus. Slavery, polity, religious culture, education, the intellectual life, and social justice — all were integral to the American Church’s formation and development, and each is explored in this book. The essays provide a unique vantage point to the American Catholic experience by their focus on two communities that played such an incomparable role in shaping the character of the church in America. Based on exemplary archival research and scholarship, the book offers an engaging history of the northward shift in power and influence in the nineteenth century.” [Available here](#)

Matthew Gerber, *Bastards: Politics, Family, and Law in Early Modern France* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 274 pp. ISBN 978-0-19-975537-0.

This volume explores the evolving jurisprudence and social customs in Early Modern France with respect to illegitimacy and the political history of the family. The first two chapters in particular provide fascinating insights into Louise de Marillac’s conflicted status as the acknowledged “natural daughter” of Louis de Marillac, born out of wedlock. Chapter 1: “Bastardy in Sixteenth-Century French Legal Doctrine and Practice.” Chapter 2: “Jurisprudential Reform of Illegitimacy in Seventeenth-Century France.” [Available here](#)

Kristine Ashton Gunnell, *Daughters of Charity: Women, Religious Mission, and Hospital Care in Los Angeles, 1856-1927* (DePaul University Vincentian Studies Institute, 2013), 259 pp. ISBN 978-1-936696-06-2. Paperback: \$18.00.

The first women to incorporate a business in Los Angeles, the Daughters of Charity played a pivotal role in shaping the quality of health services for the county’s indigent sick. As hospitals transformed from social welfare institutions to medically oriented businesses in the late nineteenth century, these Roman Catholic sisters developed innovative business strategies to retain their historic leadership position in the city’s hospital industry without relinquishing their religious commitment to care for the poor. This work provides new insights into women’s entrepreneurial activities and social advocacy work in the West,

while documenting the rich heritage of a religious community and its impact on nursing history.

Kristine Ashton Gunnell is a Research Scholar at UCLA's Center for the Study of Women. Title available here: <http://tinyurl.com/GunnellBook>

Margaret M. McGuinness, *Called to Serve: A History of Nuns in America* (NYU Press, 2013), 277 pp. ISBN 0814795560.

From the publisher: "For many Americans, nuns and sisters are the face of the Catholic Church. Far more visible than priests, Catholic women religious teach at schools, found hospitals, offer food to the poor, and minister to those in need. Their work has shaped the American Catholic Church throughout its history. Yet despite their high profile, a concise history of American Catholic sisters and nuns has yet to be published. In *Called to Serve*, Margaret M. McGuinness provides the reader with an overview of the history of Catholic women religious in American life, from the colonial period to the present. ...Rigorously researched and engagingly written, *Called to Serve* offers a compelling portrait of Catholic women religious throughout American history." Of note, the volume makes mention of the contributions of the Daughters of Charity and the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. [Available here](#)

Michel Nassiet, *La France au XVIIe siècle. Société, politique, cultures* (Belin, 2006), 318 pp. ISBN 978-2701-143026.

From the jacket: "Pour une population qui était environ un cinquième de l'Europe, la France a été au XVIIe siècle le théâtre des efforts gigantesques de deux acteurs collectifs: effort durable d'action cohérent et rationnelle de la monarchie, effort massif de conversion et de contrôle des populations par l'Église catholique. Face à une diversité foisonnante, l'histoire sociale est ici un observatoire privilégié dans une perspective du synthèse: les rapports de production et d'échange sont étudiés en liaison avec la conjoncture économique; les relations inter-personnelles et les aspects de société d'ordres sont observés en liaison avec l'activité monarchique, et des niveaux sont distingués pour analyser les processus culturels." [Available here](#)

Ronald Ramson, C.M., *Hosanna! Blessed Frederic Ozanam: Family and Friends* (WestBow Press, 2013), 192 pp. ISBN 978-1449796808.

From the cover: "2013 marks the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Blessed Antoine-Frederic Ozanam. The worldwide Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has planned celebrations for his birthday and feast day. This new biography, the first in English in many years, is dedicated to this remarkable Catholic layman." Fr. Ramson has been speaking on the life and spirituality of Blessed Frederic Ozanam for a good number of years throughout the United States, Canada, Haiti, and during his time as a missionary in Kenya. He is the author of *Praying with Frederic Ozanam*. [Available here](#)

Elizabeth Rapley, *The Lord as Their Portion: The Story of the Religious Orders and How They Shaped Our World* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2011), 337 pp. ISBN 978-0-8028-6588-5. \$24.00, paperback.

Of particular interest, chapter 4: “The Age of Confessionalism in which Rapley describes the role of religious orders in the Catholic regions of Europe, focusing primarily on France. The attempt of religious women to move beyond the requirement of cloister imposed by the Council of Trent is portrayed with the story of Ss. Jeanne de Chantal and Frances de Sales and the foundation of the Visitation. St. Vincent de Paul and the Congregation of the Mission, St. Louise de Marillac and the Daughters of Charity, and St. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle and the teaching brothers demonstrate the importance of the social ministries of charity and teaching. The reform of Armand-Jean to Rancé and the origins of the Trappists conclude the chapter.” [Available here](#)

John E. Rybolt, C.M., *Advent and Christmas Wisdom from St. Vincent de Paul* (Ligouri Press, 2012), 128 pp. ISBN 978-0764820106.

“St. Vincent de Paul was very faithful to meditation, which sets a good example for us in our busy world. Advent and Christmas Wisdom from St. Vincent de Paul endeavors to present his thoughts in a way that can help us spend some quiet time meditating. His thoughtful words will lead to a deeper relationship with God, a better appreciation of our own Christian life, and greater love for all, especially the poor. The writings of St. Vincent are mainly meditative in style, keeping with the peace-filled and prayerful season. Vincent de Paul was keenly aware of the greater issues of our life in Christ, whose Incarnation is celebrated during this season. This book of seasonal meditations uses selections from his writings, along with scriptural reflections to encourage us in our Advent journey.” [Available here](#)

Owen White and J.P. Daughton, eds., *In God's Empire: French Missionaries and the Modern World* (Oxford University Press, 2012), 336 pp. ISBN 978-0195396447.

“A collection of original essays by leading scholars in the field. It examines the complex ways in which the spread of Christianity by French men and women shaped local communities, French national prowess, and global politics in the two centuries following the French Revolution. More than a story of religious proselytism, missionary activity was an essential feature of French contact and interaction with local populations. In many parts of the world, missionaries were the first French men and women to work and live among indigenous societies. For all the celebration of France's secular “civilizing mission,” it was more often than not religious workers who actually fulfilled the daily tasks of running schools, hospitals, and orphanages. ...This book explores how France used missionaries' long connections with local communities as a means of political influence for colonial expansion.” Of particular note, and of great interest to Vincentian historians, is the chapter

“Charity Begins Abroad: The Filles de la Charité in the Ottoman Empire,” authored by Sarah A. Curis, professor of history at San Francisco State University. [Available here](#)

Anthony D. Wright, *The Divisions of French Catholicism, 1629-1645, 'The Parting of the Ways'* (Ashgate: 2011), 216 pp. ISBN 978-1-4094-2084-2.

“For much of the sixteenth century, France was wracked with religious strife, as the Wars of Religion pitted Catholic against Protestant. Whilst the conversion of Henri IV to Catholicism ended much of the conflict, the ensuing peace highlighted the fractious nature of French Catholicism and the many competing threads that ran through it. This book investigates the gradual division of the French Catholic reform movement, often associated with those known as the ‘devots’ during the first half of the seventeenth century. Such division, it is argued, was emerging before the publication in France (1641) of the posthumous “Augustinus” of Jansenius, not simply as a sequel to that. Those who were already distinguishing themselves from other ‘devots’ before that date were thus not yet identifiable as ‘Jansenists.’ Rather, the initial defining sentiment was increasing French hostility towards Jesuit involvement in Catholic Reform, both at home and abroad.

Drawing on sources from the Jesuit archives in Rome and on Port-Royal material in Paris, the book begins with an investigation into the development of Catholic Reform in France showing the problems that emerged before 1629 and the degree to which these were or were not resolved. The second half of the book contrasts the fragmentation of the movement in the years beyond 1629, and the context of Richelieu’s new directions in French foreign policy.

Covering a crucial period in the lead up to the establishment of an absolute monarchy in France, this book provides a rich new explanation of the development of French political and ecclesiastical history. It will be of interest not only to those studying the early modern period, but to anyone wishing to understand the roots of French secular society.” [Available here](#)

Ernest P. Young, *Ecclesiastical Colony. China’s Catholic Church and the French Religious Protectorate* (Oxford University Press, 2013), 408 pp. ISBN 978-0-19-992462-2.

From the Publisher: “The French Religious Protectorate was an institutionalized and enduring policy of the French government, based on a claim by the French state to be guardian of all Catholics in China. The expansive nature of the Protectorate’s claim across nationalities elicited opposition from official and ordinary Chinese, other foreign countries, and even the pope. Yet French authorities believed their Protectorate was essential to their political prominence in the country. This book examines the dynamics of the French policy, the supporting role played in it by ecclesiastical authority, and its function in embittering Sino-foreign relations.

In the 1910s, the dissidence of some missionaries and Chinese Catholics introduced turmoil inside the church itself. The rebels viewed the link between French power and the

foreign-run church as prejudicial to the evangelistic project. The issue came into the open in 1916, when French authorities seized territory in the city of Tianjin on the grounds of protecting Catholics. In response, many Catholics joined in a campaign of patriotic protest, which became linked to a movement to end the subordination of the Chinese Catholic clergy to foreign missionaries and to appoint Chinese bishops.

With new leadership in the Vatican sympathetic to reforms, serious steps were taken from the late 1910s to establish a Chinese-led church, but foreign bishops, their missionary societies, and the French government fought back. During the 1930s, the effort to create an indigenous church stalled. It was less than halfway to realization when the Chinese Communist Party took power in 1949. *Ecclesiastical Colony* reveals the powerful personalities, major debates, and complex series of events behind the turmoil that characterized the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century experience of the Catholic church in China.”

[Available here](#)

Journals

Anales de la Congregación de la Misión y de las Hijas de la Caridad.

Septembre-Octubre, Volume 120:5 (2012), contains:

- Corpus Juan Delgado Rubio, C.M., "Correspondencia inedita de San Vicente de Paul"
- Fernando Quintano, C.M., "La vida fraternal para la Mision"
- Maria A. Infante, D.C., "Hijas de la Caridad, martires en Madris (II)"

May-Junio, Volume 121:3 (2013), includes:

- Jose Luis Cortazar, C.M., "Federico Ozanam, una gran figura del siglo XIX en Francia- 200 Aniversario de su nacimiento (1813-2013)"
- Teodoro Barquin, C.M., "Federico Ozanam, apologist de la fe en el siglo XIX"
- Santiago Azcarate Gorri, C.M., "Federico Ozanam, hombre de fe, comprometido con la Iglesia al servicio de la sociedad"

Compostellanum: revista de la Archidiócesis de Santiago de Compostela.

Volume 57:1-2 (January-June 2012), contains:

- José Ramón Hernández Figueiredo, "Solución des Papa Pio IX a la 'cuestión de las Hijas de la Caridad españolas,' célebres por su aportación benéfico-asistencial," pp. 351-383

Echos de la Compagnie: The monthly international magazine of the Company of the Daughters of Charity.

Issue Number 6, Novembre-Décembre 2012, includes:

- Jean Morin, C.M., "Vers ques pauvres saint Vincent est-il allé? Vers quells pauvres nous envoie-t-il?"

Echoes of the Company (English edition): The monthly international magazine of the Company of the Daughters of Charity.

Issue Number 6, November-December 2011, features:

- Bernard Koch, C.M., "The Incarnation and Christmas, According to the Mind of Saint Vincent," pp. 587-593
- Bernard Koch, C.M., "Pure Love in the Writings of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise," pp. 594-602

French History, Published on behalf of The Society for the Study of French History.

Volume 26 (June 2012), includes:

- Katharine J. Lualdi, "Catholic liturgy and the making of early modern French identity," pp. 164-181

U.S. Catholic Historian. A scholarly journal devoted to the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, published by The Catholic University of America Press.

Volume 31, Number 1 (2013), contains:

- Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., "The Daughters of Charity: Courageous and Compassionate Civil War Nurses," pp. 51-72

Vincentiana: This magazine of the Congregation of the Mission is published every two months by the General Curia in Rome.

Volume 56, No. 3, July-September 2012, themed upon, "Ministry to the Daughters of Charity," features:

- John P. Prager, C.M., "Vincent de Paul. Co-Founder of the Daughters of Charity"
- Antoinette Marie Hance, D.C., "Louise de Marillac and the Spirituality of the Daughters of Charity"